

However, the material wealth of the State, he claims, was the least of all its great value to the country, the greatest being the impetus it had given to thought and reason, for in Oklahoma a new birth of freedom had occurred and the greatest problem of modern times, namely, the more equal distribution of the products of human labor, was being solved.

His statement that New York and New Yorkers were provincial was received with laughter, together with cries "that's right," and he explained that the Western States and particularly Oklahoma, knows much more about New York than New York knows about them.

His defense of the constitution of his State was a masterly brief for that instrument, and he explained that it was drawn with the constitution of every State in the civilized world before the committee; that it was drawn with a knowledge of conditions existing under those other constitutions, and that it was drawn with the idea that many of these conditions should not obtain in Oklahoma, which was going to put its iron hand on the predatory power of some men to rob others. Oklahoma, he said, cares not what men say in defence of fraud, but it has drawn a constitution to punish those who defraud the innocent and weak and to protect all in the enjoyment of the fruits of his labor.

Oklahoma, he said, was not against capital or corporation; on the contrary, it is itself a capitalist. It was a friend and the lover of capital, and throws every legitimate safeguard around it, and around corporations within their legitimate spheres.

He ended by stating that he brought cordial greeting of fraternal love from the newest State of the Union to one of its oldest and most prominent Sisters, and as he concluded was cheered to the echo.

